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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[10 August 1994]

The human rights situation in Nagaland

1. Through information received from Mr. Isak Chishi Swu of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) we have learnt of the serious human rights situation in Nagaland. In order to fully inform the respected Sub-Commission members of this situation we would like to present the following report from Mr. Isak Chishi Swu.

2. There have been gross violations of the human rights of the Nagas by the occupation forces of India and Burma, who have no regard for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They engage in violations of this Declaration in spite of opposition from the human rights movement.

3. The military forces have been responsible for extrajudicial killings and summary executions. On 9 May 1994 the 20th Assam Rifles stationed in Ukhrul, Manipur reacted to the suspected killing of two of their officers by NSCN guerillas by indiscriminately shelling residential areas of Ukhrul. The attack resulted in the deaths of three innocent civilians, including a 12-year-old boy.

4. The military forces have also violated the rights of the Nagas by arbitrarily detaining civilians. Only one example of hundreds that have occurred over the past decades happened on the evening of 9 May 1994. Four young girls, aged between 11 and 15 from villages close to Ukhrul were taken by soldiers of the 20th Assam Rifles. There were kept in the military camp overnight and released the following night on 10 May 1994. They were not handed over to police or charged with any crime. Instead two of the girls were subjected to electric shocks.

5. Torture has been routinely used on Nagas in custody. When the 17th Bihar Regiment and the 11th Gorkha Regiment occupied the Zeliangrong Nagas from 3 to 11 October 1993 they turned the area into a prison camp in which the villagers were beaten with iron rods, gun butts, kicked and tortured with electric shocks. One of the villagers, Mr. Liangke, was beaten to death on 8 October 1993. All things in the same area were also destroyed when soldiers used two inch mortars and grenades.

6. By attacking villages and burning them, the army has been particularly effective at terrorizing the population. Some villages have been attacked again and again, such as the village of Sikibung in which all 52 houses were destroyed by the Indian Army on 14 August 1993. It is not only the villages that are attacked but there is also the destruction of the means of livelihood such as the burning of crops and granaries. In the past two years more than one hundred villages have been destroyed by the Indian Army and the Kukis, resulting in thousands being made homeless.

7. In connection with this, it may be pointed out that Moraji Desai, a former Prime Minister of India forcefully said in 1978, "I will exterminate the Nagas without any compunction". Will the world allow India to exterminate the Nagas and their nation? Deliberately enough the Government of India has kept the outside world shut out without access to information about the real situation in Nagaland. Not a single fact-finding mission has ever been allowed to enter Nagaland in the last 47 years.

8. The Nagas are for a non-violent and peaceful solution to the problem. But both India and Burma have relentlessly sought a violent, armed solution to the situation in Nagaland resulting in their violation of nearly all the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is the crux of the problem. We respectfully call on the Sub-Commission to recognize these violations and to do all in its power to prevent the further persecution of the Nagas and ensure all their rights, as enshrined in the various

United Nations Declarations and Covenants on human, social, economic and political rights including their right to nationhood and self-determination, are respected.

9. Nagas are not separatists nor secessionists, for the question of secession or separation comes only when there is or there has been a union. But Nagaland never was and has never been a part of India, by conquest or by consent. Nagas are not terrorists either, because they do not terrorize the Indians in Nagaland or in India. They have treated well any Indian army officer or man captured and released them with dignity. On the contrary, it is the Indian armed forces that have terrorized the Nagas throughout the decades.

10. As a final request, we call on the United Nations to send an independent fact-finding mission to Nagaland to investigate the atrocities committed there and the ongoing violations of the Nagas' basic human rights.